have lunch or dinner, one should think wherefrom this food is coming? This food is being produced in our rural India. Farmers and agricultural workers toil night and day round the year, unmindful of rain or shine to produce the food grains required to feed us. Sir, we Hon. Members of this august House are here today, only by the blessings of these very people who have voted for us. And, among the people who voted for us, the agricultural labourers constitute the majority. We owe our position to those humble agricultural workers. We are consuming the food produced by them. But Sir, unfortunately, even after 50 years after independence, we have failed to enact any legislation for protecting their rights and for providing safety and security to those poor agricultural labourers. We have to hang our heads in shame for this lapse on our part. It is our duty and we should not shy away from the responsibility. At least now, we must try to bring forward legislation for the protection of the rights of our agricultural workers. These workers should have the registration facility. They should be provided with identity cards. They should be provided with at least minimum wages. The future of their children should be safeguarded. They should be provided at least the minimum required facilities to lead a decent life. Sir, the Common Minimum Programme, chalked out by the United Front Government; headed by Shri Deve Gowdaji, has also promised to bring in one such legislation for the benefit of agricultural labourers. It is most unfortunate that our Hon. Prime Minister is ignoring the Common Minimum Prorgramme. What is more, he has started ridiculing us for criticising the Government for its failure to implement the CMP. He is reported to have said that the criticism of supporting parties was only meant for the consumption of party workers and not for the people. The Hon. Prime Minister is reported to have made such remarks at the recently concluded Surajkund meet. We take serious exception to these remarks of the Hon. Prime Minister. Sir, we are not saying anything for the consumption of our party workers. We are criticising the Government for its lapses and for the sake of the people in the country. No responsible Member from all sections of this House including the Hon. Prime Minister should make such kind of statements. Today the Government has totally forgotten the CMP. They are speaking for feudals and other influential sections of the society. Today we shouldn't be forgetting the Common Minimum Programme and the welfare of the farmers. Hence, at least now, the Government should come forward with a legislation ensuring the minimum wages, protecting their rights to meet their basic needs. This Hon. House should at no point of time forget the welfare of the agricultural labourers who happen to be the backbone of the country. No one should politicise it. Let us not forget the fact that it is they, the agricultural labourers, who are feeding the country. An assurance to bring about a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers was given on the floor of the House. But the assurance just remained on papers. The assurance has not been fulfilled.

Hence, I again appeal to this Government to take steps to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the welfare of the agricultural labourers as early as possible: I conclude.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, this is about a matter which we have been raising in this House for the last several years. This concerns the poorest of the poor in this country - the agricultural labourers. About eight crores of agricultural labourers and about 35 crores of people in all - including the family members of these agricultural laboures - are living in this country without any legal protection. Sometimes it gives us a feeling that we are not living in a civilized society. A large number of people in this country are without any legal protection. We have been demanding for a Central legislation for the agricultural labourers. There should a system of registration for the agricultural labourers where - there should be a system of providing identity cards to them; there should be minimum wage for these people; there should be a guarantee for regular work for them and there should also be a provision for welfare fund and pension and a provision for dispute settlement machinery. All these things should be there.

In spite of holding several meetings by the Government on this aspect and in spite of several promises made that this Bill would be brought forward, the Governments at the Centre have only deferred the bringing forward of the Bill on this subject. The Bill has not yet been finalised and there is no sign of bringing forward this Bill. Wherever a matter concerning the poor people comes, any Government drags its feet on that. I demand that this Government should bring the Bill, which concerns the interests of the poorest of poor, in this Session of Parliament so that these large number of people can live with proper legal protection.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Only yesterday the country and the Parliament has celebrated the golden jubilee of the completion of 50 years of the Constitution of the Constitution Committee. On this occasion the Hon'ble President has stated that this democracy should purpolate to the people. Judiciary, Administration and Justice should reach the people as provision of the Constitution. If we want to achieve this objective, then the administration should be run in the regional language and judiciary should also work in regional languages. This is the demand from all sections of the people. The one difficulty is being faced in this regard is that the Constitution's authoritative version is the regional language is not available if the Courts and the Administration in the State has to work as per the provision of the Constitution then the authoritative version of the Constitution in all the regional languages

should be made available. In the absence of this a small matter arises as per the Urdu language which I would like to present before you. When we come over here after getting elected then we take oath. How should be take oath has been written in the Constitution. When we take oath, we use the name as Bharat or India. But in Urdu 'Bhashantar' which in Government publication in that it has been written as 'Bharat Ka Aelan'. The oath in that is given in the name of Bharat. But then oath is taken in Jammu and Kashmir then we use the word 'Hindustan' When we take in this House, then we use the word 'Hind'. I would like to urge upon that these three decades words 'Hind', 'Hindustan' and 'Bharat' are not in consonance with the Constitution of India. This should be ensured that the oath taken should be in consonance with the spirit of the Constitutional. legal angle and propriety. Therefore authoritative translated version of the Constitution should be available in all the regional languages.

I have tabled a bill for replacing the word 'India' by 'Hindustan'. If this Bill gets priority in the ballot then it would be accepted. But for the time being my demand is that authoritative version of the Indian Constitution should be made available in all the language. Presently, the authoritative version is available only in Hindi language. I demand that the Minister should make a statement about the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem. Due to the closure of IDPL for a number of months, 8000 employees are on the verge of starvation. The situation has come to such a pass that the employee are yet to get the salary for the month of November. Whereas the decision was taken to give them the salary as the case has been referred to the BIFR. As per the decision taken the price should have been given the salary for the month of November. An amount of Rs. 3.5 crore is outstanding, but the Government has not provided the funds. The former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singh had promised that the employees of the IDPL will get their salary every month. Therefore, I demand that the Government should looked into this matter as if the units located at Hyedrabad and other five units are closed down then the entire machinery will be finished. The transport facility provided to the employees is going to be withdrawn. The supply of electricity to the employees has been stopped by the management and the Government. This issue concern 8000 employees the Union Government has been taking a decision in this regard. I demand that the employees should be given the salary for the month of November and a decision should be taken by the Government to save the employees from the starvation.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, we support the casue of IDPL workers ...*(Interruptions)* If you do not allow us to speak on any subject, what will we do? We are supporting the cause of IDPL workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : It is a very serious matter. Sir. We support the issue and at the same time I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey our feelings to the Finance Minister and also to the Industry Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) : Chairman, Sir, I support the issue raised by the Hon. Member. Thousands of employees of the IDPL are on the roads in Delhi and have become the victims of starvation Even the employees working in the factory located in the Bihar are not getting any facilities. This is a pharmaceutical unit manufacturing low cost medicines. but it is going to stop manufacturing of low cost medicines under pressure from multinational companies which is not a rational approach. Therefore I demand that the Government should review this matter and the employees should be paid their salary and for this purpose provision should be made in the supplementary budget

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for the opportunity given to me. I have stood here in the interest of workers, especially in the interest of IDPL workers as also in the interest of sick public sector undertakings. The hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, in his Budget Speech assured us that a comprehensive revival Bill would be brought in this House, in this Winter Session itself, for discussion. It has not yet been brought before the House. Today, IDPL, a premier and prestigious institution, has come to a standstill. IDPL has contributed significantly to the Indian drug industry but all the production units have been closed down. The work force has been reduced from 13,000 to 8,200 and even that limited work force is rendered idle today. Workers are not getting their payments and salaries for months together.

Moreover, the Government's policy on reduction of custom tariff and imported medicine has aggravated the situation. All this taken together have aggravated the situation and that has created the problem on the lot of IDPL workers. I would urge upon the Government to increase the budgetary provision for IDPL ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Chairman, Sir, you might have gone through the news items appearing in Hindustan Times today wherein the report about the Amarnath tragedy has appeared. This is most